

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets 2 and 7 of the drawings include informal changes to Figures 2 and 10. These informal changes are submitted for the Examiner's review and approval. To correct and ambiguity in the specification, the element originally identified as an "thrust disc" 44 is now characterized as an end plate 45. The "thrust disc" 44 is a separate element that is contiguous with the adjacent face of the end plate 45

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

In view of the prior art and arguments advanced in the parent application prosecution, Applicant respectfully submits the foregoing claims as clearly patentable over the prior art.

Respectfully Submitted,

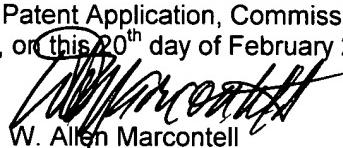

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence, along with any referred to as enclosed or attached, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. ER 495236711 US, Postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on this 20th day of February 2004.


W. Allen Marcontell